

Survey development for Girl2Girl, a text messaging-based pregnancy prevention program for sexual minority adolescent girls

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* Thank you for your interest in this presentation. Please note that analyses included herein are preliminary. More recent, finalized analyses may be available by contacting CIPHR for further information.

Background



- Girl2Girl is a novel text messaging-based teen pregnancy prevention program for sexual minority girls 14-18 years of age
- Outcome measures centered on pregnancy prevention behaviors (e.g., using condoms, being on birth control).
- Posited influential factors included one's information, motivation, and behavioral skills to engage in pregnancy preventive behaviors, social support, and degree of 'outness' with one's friends and family
- The valid and reliable assessment of outcome measures is critical to a successful evaluation of a behavioral intervention.

Methods: Online survey pilot

- First pilot: July 9-10, 2016; Second pilot: Oct 5-7, 2016
- Recruited using advertisements on Facebook and Instagram
- Interested candidates clicked advertisement and directed to online screener
- Qualified youth directed to assent form and then forwarded to online baseline survey
- Received a \$10 Amazon gift card for survey completion
- Contact information and IP address were reviewed for duplicate entries

Methods: Measures on online survey pilot

- Test messaging assessment
- Self-esteem
- Sexual attraction
- Internalized stigma scale
- Community connections, school experiences, and outness
- Self-perceived risk (STDs and Pregnancy)
- Intentions about sex
- Information, Motivation, and Behavior (IMB) scale
- Reasons for having sex in the future
- Reasons youth have sex
- Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS)
- Demographics and process variables





Results: First online survey pilot

- 85% of youth agreed their participation in survey was valuable
- 95% agreed it is important to ask teens questions like these
- Expressed difficulty answering questions about female condoms, dental dams, and some birth control methods; didn't know what they were
- About birth control intentions questions, a youth stated: *"This survey assumes you're not on any sort of birth control, which makes the section about birth control confusing"*

Results: First online survey pilot

- Unsure if should count unwanted sex in queries of sexual behaviors
- Wanted survey to be more inclusive of other relationship types. For example: *"I wish it said 'sexual partner' instead of boyfriend/girlfriend at least sometimes. I and many other teenagers engage in manual/oral sex outside of relationships"*
- Also, unsure how to respond to questions phrased "my girlfriend/boyfriend" if they did not have a partner (IMB) and confused by the wording of "special person" (MSPSS)
- Youth also wanted the survey to be more gender-inclusive and sensitive to asexual youth who may be taking the survey and transgender partners
- Wanted graphics to be added to the survey



Results: Second online survey pilot

- Youth continued to express the survey was heteronormative and cisnormative in certain questions (e.g. *"Try writing 'a cis guy' instead of 'a guy'"*)
- Wanted sex defined for them (e.g. *"A penis has never been inside of me, but I've given oral. Does that count as sex?"*)

Results: Second online survey pilot

| Relationship Type | Having sex and in a committed relationship | Not having sex but in a committed relationship | Someone you kiss, touch, or make out with but someone with whom you are not having sex | Not committed to one another but having sex | Not committed nor having sex |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| Boyfriend/Girlfriend | 90% (158) | 72% (127) | 62% (109) | 10% (18) | 3% (5) |
| Partner | 78% (134) | 55% (97) | 60% (110) | 29% (51) | 5% (9) |
| Someone you're dating | 59% (102) | 57% (99) | 80% (142) | 29% (51) | 16% (28) |
| Someone you're hooking up with | 6% (11) | 1% (2) | 38% (67) | 93% (164) | 1% (2) |
| Sexual partner | 51% (92) | 3% (5) | 23% (40) | 89% (157) | 4% (7) |

Note: Categories are non-exclusive, N=176

Integrating Feedback: Online survey pilots

- Added an option for asexual to the assessment of attraction and sexual identity
- Prior to sexual behavior sections, updated instructions to read: *If you are asexual and are not sexually attracted to people, please answer in a way that feels best for you.*
- Added questions asking youth if they were attracted to transgender males and/or transgender females
- Ensured references to body parts were not gendered
- E.g. *"In the next year, do you think you might have the following types of sex with a girl?"*, to instead read, *"In the next year, do you think you might have the following types of sex with a girl, or someone with a vagina regardless of their gender presentation?"*.
- Also edited referenced of "girl or guy" to "the person" when allowable

Integrating Feedback: Online survey pilots

- Added pictorial representations and descriptions of dental dams, female condoms, and various forms of birth control
- We added that youth should respond about their intention to use or stay on birth control.
- E.g. changed *"In the next 3 months, getting on birth control for me would be:"*, to instead say, *"In the next 3 months, getting or staying on birth control for me would be:"*.
- Updated instructions to tell youth who may not have a girlfriend/boyfriend or sexual partner to respond as if they did
- Reworded "special person" in MSPSS to say "a person special to me"
- We used "girlfriend/boyfriend or sexual partner" to include committed and sexual non-committed relationships

Methods: Text messaging-based survey pilot

- First pilot: September 10-13, 2016; Second Pilot: September 16-20, 2016
- Same recruitment and enrollment protocol described with baseline; however, after assent, were sent a text with first survey question
- Participants received \$5 Amazon gift card
- Duplicate entries based on IP address and contact information excluded



Methods: Measures text messaging-based survey pilot

- Outcome measures of the study (e.g., "And, are you on birth control? I mean the pill, shot (eg Depo-Provera), ring (eg NuvaRing), patch (eg Xulane), an IUD (eg Paragard) or implant (eg Implanon)")
- Question about acceptability of abbreviations used (i.e., "Thanks. And sometimes we used abbreviations. Like, "def", "dunno", "prob", "Wks", and "eg". Which, if any, did you find confusing?")
- Clarity questions (e.g., "When we asked you about "sex when a penis went into your vagina", did you think we meant 1) a man's or transgender woman's penis, 2) a toy penis, or 3) both?")
- Feedback on the way condom use was queried (e.g., "And, what was it like for you to be asked the number of times you used AND did NOT use a condom? Was it annoying? Helped you remember? Something else?")

Results: First text messaging-based survey pilot

- Testers found survey acceptable and it functioned as intended:
 - Ex: "i must say i'm happy with how discreet the process is and i'm glad that you are even gathering this information in the first place :)" and "i like how casual/conversational it is."
- Unsure if "how many times have you had sex when a dildo, sex toy, or other object went into your vagina" included masturbation
- Some youth thought "e.g." was confusing
- 64% preferred "shot (like Depo-Provera)" instead of "shot (e.g. Depo-Provera" or "shot (Depo-Provera)"
- 10% thought were referring to a sex toy or both a sex toy and a man or transgender woman's penis when asked about sex with a penis
- Thought being asked both number of time used and did not use condoms was annoying, redundant, or unnecessary
- 19% did not want an incentive

Integrating Feedback: First Text messaging-based survey pilot

- Added introductory text to clarify what we meant by sex
- Also specifically stated: "sex when someone's penis (not a dildo/toy) goes into your vagina?" and "when a dildo, sex toy, or other object (not fingers or a penis) went into your vagina"
- Minimized the use of abbreviations and used "like" when providing youth with examples
- Allowed youth to write in where they'd like to send a donation



Results: Second Text messaging-based survey pilot

- Survey much better received by youth
- Most of the confusion was related to the introductory text message
- One respondent was still confused about whether having used a toy included masturbation
- Wording of some of the sex questions confusing; though it was purposeful
- 3% thought we were referring to a sex toy, and 10% thought we were referring to both a man or transgender woman's penis and a sex toy
- No difference in the confidence when reporting condom use

Integrating Feedback: Second Text messaging-based survey pilot

- Changed phrasing to "human penis (not a dildo/sex toy)" and "dildo, sex toy, or other object (not fingers or a penis)" on all future surveys
- If respondents stated they thought we were referring to a toy or both a man/transgender woman's penis and a toy, we added a follow-up question
- Chose to ask youth the number of times they used a condom
- Added the option to donate to one of six top charity organizations to future surveys

Conclusions

- Findings suggest the importance of iterative survey development with the target population
- Piloting question with LGB youth is critical to ensure they understand questions as intended
- Make sure that asexually identified youth feel included
- Be gender inclusive
- With 602 completes, Facebook appears to be an efficient way to reach LGB+ teen girls



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Results: Baseline Survey

- Received 415 screener for the first pilot test
 - 242 eligible
 - 91 LGB+ girls completed survey
- Received 894 screeners for second pilot test
 - 342 eligible
 - 176 LGB+ girls completed

Results: Intervention End Survey

- Received 443 screeners for the first intervention end pilot
 - 229 eligible
 - 171 LGB+ girls completed
- Received 547 screeners for the second intervention end pilot
 - 286 eligible
 - 164 LGB+ girls completed

For more information, please contact Michele Ybarra at michele@innovativepublichealth.org